



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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March 12, 2010

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **TRIAL COURT OPERATIONS – INDIGENT DEFENSE COST REVIEW
(BOARD AGENDA ITEM #5, JUNE 22, 2009) – STATUS REPORT**

On June 22, 2009, your Board directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to transfer \$14.4 million¹ of Trial Court Operations (TCO) budget into the Provisional Financing Uses (PFU) budget unit until the Board receives an audit review on the TCO budget. The \$14.4 million represents the projected over-expenditure in the TCO for indigent defense.

The scope of the audit includes analyzing indigent defense expenditures and determining the reasons for the increase. We are obtaining cost reports from the Superior Court and expect to issue our report to your Board by April 30, 2010.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may call Jackie Guevarra at (213) 253 0198.

WLW:MMO:JTG

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Jackie White, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
William H. Mitchell, Superior Court

¹ The original motion cited \$15.7 million in projected over-expenditures. The CEO subsequently provided clarification and amended the amount to \$14.4 million.